

**National Recreation and Preservation/Statutory or Contractual Aid for Other Activities**

**JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

Activity: Statutory or Contractual Aid for Other Activities  
Subactivity: National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Program Component	1999 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2000 Budget Request	Change From 1999 (+/-)
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom	500	-500	0	0	-500
<b>Total Requirements \$(000)</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-500</b>

**AUTHORIZATION**

Public Law 105-203, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act, 1998

**OVERVIEW**

To provide operational support for the **National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program**. Funding will be used to coordinate and facilitate Federal and non-Federal activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret the history of the Underground Railroad, its significance as a crucial element in the evolution of the national civil rights movement, and its relevance in fostering the spirit of racial harmony and national reconciliation.

**APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS**

- Ia Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.
- Ib The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.
- IIa Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.
- IIb Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of parks and their resources for this and future generations.
- IIIa Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs.
- IIIb Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.

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***National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom  
FY 1999 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments***

**Enacted: \$500,000**

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act (Public Law 105-203) authorizes the National Park Service to coordinate and facilitate activities that commemorate and interpret the Underground Railroad. The Service is required to assist in the creation and maintenance of a national network of interpretive sites by linking existing sites, documenting potential sites, and providing educational and technical support for organizations engaged in related

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activities. Related organizations can and will include community organizations, educational institutions, museums, historical societies, and other public and private agencies.

To accomplish the goals of the act, the National Park Service will continue its efforts to identify and document sites in cooperation with State Historic Preservation Offices, community groups and organizations, and other researchers. As they are identified and documented, properties associated with the Underground Railroad will be added to the World Wide Web site, Aboard the Underground Railroad: A National Register Travel Itinerary. It is possible that this official list of historic sites will grow to a collection of more than one hundred sites over the next few years. The National Park Service will also create an official symbol for organizations, institutions, and historic sites which will be used to identify their participation in the Network to Freedom. Additionally, educational materials based on the Teaching with Historic Places program, lesson plans, curriculum guide, and a newsletter will all be developed. These materials will be useful for a wide range of educational programs as well as interesting to the general public. Building on the success of current electronic information outreach programs, the National Park Service plans to develop a web site that provides original documents related to the Underground Railroad. Census records, tax forms, emancipation papers, newspaper articles and family letters can be digitized for display and use on this site. These documents will not only provide primary sources for researchers, but will offer examples of how researchers can use public records and archives to craft their own stories.

In FY 1998, the Service, using technical assistance funding, sponsored public workshops that developed multiple property surveys in several states, produced trail guides, and held training sessions for NPS employees. In addition, it produced three publications that will assist in the education and documentation aspects of the program: *Underground Railroad: Official National Park Handbook*, *Exploring a Common Past: Researching and Interpreting the Underground Railroad*, and *Underground Railroad Resources in the United States: Theme Study*. These publications were designed to further the public's understanding of the historic Underground Railroad and aid efforts to research and document, to National Register standards, sites associated with the Underground Railroad.

In FY 1999, the goals of the program will continue to focus on adding properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the Itinerary website, creating an official symbol, sponsoring public workshops, and providing technical assistance to participating organizations. In FY 2000, the program anticipates the addition of the documents webpage, additional educational materials, full development of cooperative agreements, and identification of all participants in the network. By 2002, the National Park Service anticipates an increase of 15 percent in the number of historic sites associated with the Underground Railroad listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Funding provided in FY 1999 will be used to support parks and follow through on identification and documentation of sites by State Historic Preservation Offices and the National Register. This will aid in conserving sites which meet current standards and help to establish standards for the Underground Railroad symbol or device.

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### **FY 2000 BUDGET REQUEST**

▪ ***National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom:*** For FY 2000, the NPS proposes to transfer the \$500,000 in funding for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom from this appropriation and to provide the funding for this program within the Operation of the National Park System appropriation (Park Management/Resource Stewardship/Cultural Resources Management) where it is more functionally and organizationally appropriate.

Program support similar to that provided in FY 1999 will be continued in FY 2000 in the Operation of the National Park System Appropriation.